

## **VICTIM/WITNESS SECTION**

### **CALIFORNIA VICTIM SERVICES TRAINING INSTITUTE (CVSTI)**

#### **Program Description**

This program was created to support the Victim/Witness Assistance Program service providers in California by ensuring program oversight, updating and maintaining the statutory victim entry-level and advanced advocate training curricula pursuant to Penal Code § 13835.10, and training and certifying coordinators of victim/witness assistance centers. The Institute assesses the ongoing and changing training needs of the victim/witness assistance field and makes appropriate suggestions for improvements in service provision.

#### **Eligibility**

The California Crime Victim Assistance Association is the only organization eligible for funding.

#### **Authorized By**

California State Legislature/Office of Emergency Services

#### **Fund Source and Amount**

Federal Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)     \$ 187,500

#### **Grant Award Period**

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

#### **Next Competitive/Non Competitive Application Due Date**

Non Competitive – June 2008

#### **Additional Program Information**

The CVSTI also maintains the CVSTI website to serve as an information resource for victims' rights and services, provide up-to-date statutory mandates, victim service issues/updates, legislation/case law review updates, and training requirements. CVSTI shall provide and/or sponsor continuing education training courses on such topics as new crime trends, special needs victims and underserved populations, and/or also previously under reported crimes, i.e. hate crimes, identity theft, elder abuse, Internet sex crimes, so that victim advocates and coordinators can remain current with their training and knowledge of the evolving field. They will present a statewide summit in cooperation with the California District Attorney's Association (CDAA) to improve the working relationship between victim services and the criminal justice system, to enhance professionalism in the field, and increase prosecutorial support and involvement.

The Community Crisis Response initiative was developed to guide and assist individual victim/witness assistance centers whose county may experience a large-scale criminal or terrorist incident. CVSTI contracts with an independent crisis response contractor to provide training in California utilizing the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) certified trainers from the pool of its Victim/Witness Assistance Centers nationwide.

#### **How Do I Get More Information?**

The CVSTI is administered by the Victim/Witness Section in the Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Victim/Witness Branch of OES at (916) 324-9136.